

nations than has ever been accomplished before. The true and ennobling principles of science and art have received the sanction of the world, and we shall have that bond of fraternity instead of national strife.

The Chairman proposed the "Engineering of the Continent and of America," which was acknowledged in English by Baron de Burg, on the part of the Continent, in a neat and clear speech, and by Mr. Hayward and Dr. Smith, on the part of the sister country.

Monsieur Quetelet, in proposing the health of the President, took occasion to express his delight in being mixed with such a distinguished assembly, &c. &c.

Here the Rev. Dr. Whewell, Master of Trinity College, Cambridge, begged leave to propose a suitable toast for the occasion, viz. "The Amateur Engineers," which was responded to by the Earl Lovelace.

Much unity of sentiment and cordiality was evinced on this interesting *réunion* of the representatives of such scientific institutions, and the party broke up at a late hour.

#### SOCIAL FEATURES OF ARCHITECTURE.

The geologist can discern traces of long-bygone phases of life from the form of a rock or a fossil he may pick up. Some such deductions may be interesting in connection with architecture, and may assuredly be full of solemnity and grandeur.

How strongly the genius of a period is imprinted upon its buildings! Look, for instance, at Babylon and Nineveh. Palaces and temples shew the powerful monarch, and equally powerful priesthood, and an enslaved people. At Jerusalem, one only temple signifying its sublime theocracy.—Egypt, with its gloomy religion, enormous temples, palaces, and cemeteries, shewing its ignorant superstitions and degraded masses working by the hundred thousands under hard taskmasters—kings or priests,—the theatres and temples of Rome and Greece—their baths and circuses,—all tell their own tale. Rome's mighty walls, even now on our own land, speak of her resolve to keep all she had as being all that was worth taking. The feudal fortresses and the old cathedrals remind us that not long ago the priest and the noble divided the power and the purse. Then the close-built old-fashioned towns tell us of the sturdy burghers beginning to beard the noble and to think for themselves—and act too.

I wonder what the fortifications of Paris will say for themselves 300 years hence! We cannot tell now: our great grandchildren may. No, we cannot tell the full meaning of the present:—"We cannot see the wood for trees."

Nevertheless, we can tell what that immense brick chimney, belching forth smoke within a stone's throw of that old time-worn castle, means. These long rows of palace-like buildings—immense warehouses, miles of docks, tunnels, embankments, stations—don't want much questioning as to their meaning: the shops being only bath and plaster, will not say much a few centuries hence, at least I hope not as they are.

When looking back on the history of nations, we see them gradually rising from poverty to affluence, with wealth comes effeminacy, then corruption, then ruin. History is said to be an index of the future, as well as a record of the past: though opposed to the common notion, I venture to say this is untrue; and in this point lies the grand distinction between ancient and modern civilization, for which we are indebted to the influence of Christianity. In all old communities, as wealth and numbers increase, there is at the same time formed a fearful mass of poverty in the lower strata of society. Pent up in dark alleys, good and bad together, misery breeds sin, which reproduces itself in wretchedness, and rage, and dirt: into this Augean stable are plunged the crime, recklessness, and ruined debauchery of the classes above, the dry rot gradually creeps upwards, till the whole mass is rotten, and is hewn down and cast into the fire.

Gibbon, in summing up the chances of old communities being swallowed up by bar-

barians, as Rome was, lays most stress on the improvements in the mechanical arts of defence, and on the fact that barbarians have first ceased to be so, before they could cope with the arms and arts of wealthy nations.

But we have a safer defence than these: we also have reached that stage of our existence when enormous wealth stands side by side with gaunt poverty and misery in its most revolting forms—so appalling, that thinking men stand aghast at the spectacle. But, as I said before, thanks to Christianity (I shall not stop to say why we may attribute this to Christianity), the very horror of the spectacle has opened men's eyes to the danger of its continuance—the truth has forced itself on all minds, and begins to operate for good. This is the master topic of the present day, and will be so for many a year: we see at last that the evil must be grappled with, or it will destroy us also; that we must drag this mass of ignorance, poverty, and vice up, or it will drag us down, so we have "sanitary reports," "labour and the poor" questions, "theories of education": the overpowering feeling begins to show its effects on our buildings: we have baths and wash-houses for the million, ragged schools, soup kitchens, model lodging-houses, and model cottages. These are new ideas in building: they are the embodiments, in bricks and mortar, of a grand movement in society. Prince Albert, Lord Ashley, and others of the great, are working nobly in this cause. Peel's greatest speech ends with a prayer for the poor man's blessing. These are only beginnings, however: we want poor men's churches, and more than I dare occupy your valuable columns by mentioning. In this movement lies the salvation of society.

When from the lowest depths of society there flows upward a stream that will purify and renovate instead of corrupting, then we may be sure that our civilization will go on, ever assuming higher forms, and will not be swept away like that of old; because it is founded on a rock—God's blessing.

J. P. W.

#### NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

THE project for the erection of a town-hall and corporate buildings at Leeds appears to be a settled one. The committee have not yet decided on a site, but they have been authorised to expend 200*l.* in procuring plans and estimates. The feeling seems to prevail that 30,000*l.* should be expended on a town-hall, to be worthy of a place such as Leeds. One-third of the cost is looked for from the sale of the present court-house and other public sources: Park-lane appears to be the most likely site.—The report of the Hull Work-house Building Committee was lately adopted by the guardians. It stated that of the fifty-two tenders received, the following, being the lowest in amount, had been adopted by the committee:—Samuel Atack, Leeds, bricklayer, 3,200*l.*; Joseph Bealand and William Gledhill, Bradford, plasterers, 363*l.*; I. Y. Margison, Hull, joiner and carpenter, 2,824*l.*; Simpson and Malone, Hull, stonemasons, 1,674*l.*; Richardson and Miller, Hull, plumbers and glaziers, 468*l.*; Onions and Wheelhouse, Bradford, ironfounders, 270*l.*; Henry Newmarch, Hull, slater, 622*l.* 15*s.*; John Chapman, Hull, painter, 89*l.* 15*s.* Total, 9,461*l.* 10*s.* Though this was an increase of 426*l.* 10*s.* above the original estimates of the architects, yet it was 31*l.* 10*s.* below the subsequent estimate, including the additional works required by the Poor-law Board. It had been proposed to place the front of the entrance buildings at a distance of 90 feet from the road, and the committee also recommended that, in order to insure increased stability for the building, a sum of 175*l.* should be expended in stone landings to the foundations. Mr. James Ogilvie, of Elloughton, near Hull, has been appointed clerk of works, at a salary of 2*l.* per week, on condition that he resides in town and attends exclusively to the works during their progress. The first stone was laid on 21st inst., in the Anlaby-road. The building, which was designed by Messrs. Lockwood and Mawson, architects,

will be in the Italian style. The several fronts will be cased with red stock bricks, and the dressings will be executed in stone. The workhouse will comprise four departments. First,—the entrance buildings, providing immediate ingress and egress for business of a temporary nature. These consist of offices and apartments for the guardians, clerk, porter, applicants for relief, relieving-officer, vagrants, and probationers, together with baths and washplaces for vagrants and probationers. Second,—the main building, for permanent occupants. This will contain the master's office, male and female wards for infirm, able, and disorderly; school and workrooms, dormitories, lying-in-rooms, &c. A large dining-hall, 80 feet by 40 feet, will occupy the central space at back of main building, with kitchen, scullery, &c. Third; parallel with the main building will be the workshop for men, and washhouses, laundries, and drying-closets for women. The chapel, which will occupy the centre, in rear of the dining-hall, is intended to hold 400 persons. The infirmary will be placed behind, but within the area of the workhouse. In the whole, accommodation will be provided for 763 inmates, including vagrants.—The enlargement of St. Edmund's Cemetery, at Gateshead, is in progress.—A new church is in course of erection at Gillingham Spa.—A new church is about to be erected at Kexby, parish of Catton, chiefly at the expense of Lord Wenlock and Lord Londesborough.—New markets are about to be opened at Elgin. They contain shops, stalls, and tables for the sale of butcher meat, vegetables, poultry, eggs, and dairy produce, and a corn-market, hall, and offices. The architects were Messrs. Mackenzie and Matthews, and the contractors, Messrs. Chalmers and Ross, masons; Mackenzie, carpenter; and Stewart, plasterer.—The chancel, nave, and south aisle of the Episcopal Church of St. John the Evangelist, at Aberdeen, have been completed from designs by Messrs. Mackenzie and Matthews of Aberdeen, architects, and the building was consecrated on the 6th inst. by the primate of the church in Scotland, who is the bishop at Aberdeen. The style is Early Middle Pointed, and consists of a nave (56 feet by 21 feet), south aisle (56 feet by 10 feet), north porch, chancel (28 feet by 17 feet), with sacristy on the north side, and tower on the south side of the chancel, in the angle formed by the aisle.—The tower is not yet completed, but, when finished, will be surmounted by a spire. The nave consists of four bays, the porch being placed in the second from the west. All the windows are filled in with geometrical tracery, the west one having four lights, and the east one five. The walls are built of hammer-dressed coursed granite, with freestone dressings, from Burntisland. This style of work is quite new in this part of the country, where granite is so plentiful. Each of the gables is terminated with crosses, and the ridges are covered with ornamental tiles. The windows and doors have moulded dripstones, terminating in heads. The roof of the nave is forty-five feet high from the floor to the apex, the wood being varnished. The roof of the chancel is not yet finished, but is intended to be painted in polychrome, as will also be the walls. The chancel is entered by a stone arch, 26 feet high, and the tower, in which the organ is placed, opens into the chancel and aisle by arches, 15 feet high. The floor of the chancel is laid with Minion's encaustic tiles, and the nave with black and red tiles. On the south side of the sanctuary are the Sedilia and Piscina, carved in Caen stone. The windows in the nave and aisle are glazed with Hartley's patent rolled glass—the west one having ornamental quarries. Those in the chancel are of painted glass, by Wailes. The east window has been put in by subscription, and has five lights, in each of which are canopies containing figures. Others of the windows, chiefly memorial, were designed by Mr. Wailes.—The foundation stone of a new West Bridge was laid at Gilway on Monday week.—The new works at All Saints', Worcester, have been inaugurated. The whole churchyard and approaches have been surrounded by a wall of red brick (with stone courses introduced),